

Message Text

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47

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2167

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. LIBYAN MEDIA CONTINUE TO BE DOMINATED BY ANTI-EGYPTIAN PROPAGANDA, TO WHICH NEWS OF JALLUD'S TRAVELS IN EASTERN EUROPE TAKES A BACK SEAT. TWO ITEMS ARE WORTH NOTING.

2. COUP ATTEMPT IN EGYPT?: ARMY'S NEWSPAPER AL-FATIH OF APRIL 26 SAYS THERE WAS COUP ATTEMPT IN CAIRO IN TWO WEEKS BEFORE NEW CABINET WAS APPOINTED. ACCORDING TO AL-FATIH, LEADER OF ATTEMPT WAS GENERAL AHMAD FAHMI MUSTAPHA, COMMANDER OF ARMORED FORCES, WITH ASSISTANCE OF A COLONEL IN COMMANDOS. PLANS FOR COUP ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN UNCOVERED BY INTELLIGENCE SHORTLY BEFORE IT WAS TO TAKE PLACE, WITH DISCOVERY LEADING TO ALERT IN ARMY AND ARRESTS OF THOSE INVOLVED. GUARD AT SADAT'S RESIDENCE, THE MINISTRY OF WAR, AND MILITARY ACADEMY IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN INCREASED, AND GENERAL MUSTAPHA IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO TELEVISION STUDIOS AND FORCED TO MAKE A CONFESSION, WITH STRICT PRECAUTIONS BEING TAKEN TO KEEP NEWS SECRET. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT SOME INFORMED CIRCLES THINK HE WAS THEN EXECUTED ON SADAT'S ORDER; IN ANY CASE, ARMY IS NOW BEING PURGED OF NASSERISTS AS RESULT OF ATTEMPT, AND THEY ARE BEING INTERROGATED, TRANSFERRED AWAY FROM LINE UNITS, AND RESTRICTED FROM TRAVELING OUTSIDE GYPT.

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3. SECOND ITEM HAS TO DO WITH FUNDS IN DOLLARS ALLEGEDLY PLACED IN EGYPTIAN CENTRAL BANK IN 1970 AND 1971, ON UNDERSTANDING THEY WOULD BE RETURNED TO LIBYA IN 1972. SADAT IS ACCUSED OF HAVING STOLEN THIS MONEY, AMOUNTING TO 140 MILLION DOLLARS, FOR HIS PERSONAL USE.

4. PRESS HAS NOT SPECIFICALLY RAISED ALLEGED BEATING TO DEATH BY LIBYAN POLICE OF EGYPTIAN IN DERNÄ, BUT REPORTS TELEGRAM SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN SENT TO RCC BY REPRESENTATIVES OF EGYPTIAN COMMUNITY IN BENGHAZI DENYING THAT EGYPTIANS THERE HAVE RECEIVED ANY BAD TREATMENT AT HANDS OF THEIR LIBYAN BROTHERS.
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